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**Testimony in Support of
S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a parent of a student at Saint Mary's School in Newington, CT, I support S.B. No. 318.

Although my family is not Catholic we choose to send my daughter to a parochial school due to its small class sizes and nurturing environment. Although we are tax payers in the town of Harwinton we continue to choose to pay for tuition to Catholic School. Many parents also send their children to Magnet Schools out of town. Yet, their town will provide transportation to Magnet Schools and not to Catholic Schools. If Magnet School families are offered transportation then parochial school families should as well. We are all paying our taxes and lightening the class sizes of our public schools. The least the town can do is offer transportation.

Bus transportation would help immensely. Not just to my family but also for the success and the future of parochial schools. Some children are able to thrive in parochial school and do not do well in a larger school environment. Many parents simply do not send their kids to the best school they can because of transportation. It's not easy raising a family and working full time and juggling transportation, schedules, homework and supper Monday through Friday.

Please keep access to our schools alive and viable for all children by allowing state reimbursements for inter-district transportation for K-8 nonpublic schools.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Katherine Campoli